

For Immediate Release

Contact: (write your name and phone number!)

Christmas Gifts To Supplement Your Family Disaster Plan

The following Christmas gift suggestions are not just for campers and outdoor enthusiasts. These suggestions can help you get started on supplies you will need to supplement your family's disaster plan. Your family disaster plan and supplies can help you and your family cope with natural disasters such as winter storms, tornadoes or flooding. Thinking ahead and being prepared can do much to reduce or prevent the tremendous heartache and financial hardships of these disasters. While not your traditional Christmas gifts, these items can make a huge difference in the year ahead.

Suggested disaster ready gifts include:

- * A smoke detector with extra batteries
- * Household fire extinguishers for kitchen and all bedrooms (a 5 pound A-B-C type is the best)
- * A foldable ladder for evacuation of a second story in a fire
- * A heavy duty flashlight with extra batteries and a battery powered lamp
- * A first aid kit
- * A battery powered radio with extra batteries
- * A NOAA Weather Radio with battery backup and tone-alert feature to receive weather and other emergency alerts
- * A sturdy plastic tub filled with bottled water and non-perishable, high energy food and canned goods
- * A camp stove or canned heat stove with extra fuel
- * A year-long policy for Flood Insurance, available from your insurance agent and backed by the federal government
- * A winter car kit that includes emergency flares, shovel, windshield scraper, battery-powered radio, flashlight, water, snacks, tow chain or rope, tire chains and fluorescent distress flag
- * During a drought, the gift of a gardener to cut back combustible plants and vegetation from around the house